

CHRONOOLL 84-2458
27 June 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for the House Foreign Affairs Committee
on the Impact of Moving the US Embassy to
Jerusalem

1. On 27 June 1984, the House Foreign Affairs Committee was briefed on the foreign policy implications of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Lantos-Gilman bill for the transfer is pending before the Committee, and the above briefing is one of several held by the Committee as it considers the issue. The CIA briefing was requested by the Committee's Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East. The following Committee Members attended:

Lee H. Hamilton (D., IN), Chairman
Stephen J. Solarz (D., NY)
Dan Mica (D., FL)
Tom Lantos (D., CA)
Larry Smith (D., FL)
Howard Berman (D., CA)
Mel Levine (D., CA)

William Broomfield (R., MI)
Larry Winn (R., KS)
Benjamin Gilman (R., NY)
Mark Siljander (R., MI)
Ed Zschau (R., CA)

Committee staffers attending included Ev Bierman, Mike Van Dusen, Alison Fortier, Ivo Spalation, Tony Verstandig, and Robert Kurz. Michele Bova and Ed Fox of State/Legislative Liaison also attended. The CIA briefers were [redacted] Director of the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analyses and [redacted] Deputy Director. A transcript was taken. [redacted]

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2. The briefing opened with a brief overview by Mr. [] of likely international reactions to any changes in the status of US official representation in Jerusalem. He pointed out the political and religious significance of Jerusalem to the Islamic world. [] also mentioned the difficulties that would arise in US relations with moderate Arab states and indicated that radical states would probably exploit the move, thereby complicating the Middle East Peace process and possibly even destroying it. []

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3. [] provided more details about the possible world reaction. He explained that CIA stations overseas had been asked to comment on the likely response in their countries. His appraisal included the muted but negative response of the moderates to the violent reaction of terrorist-proned radical states such as Libya, Iran, South Yemen and Syria. [] also described the intensity of popular, negative Arabic feeling about US-Israeli relations and estimated that the transfer of US representation could be harmful over the long run to both Israeli and US objectives in the region. []

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4. The Members asked numerous questions. Mr. Gilman asked to see the Interagency Intelligence Assessment of 4 April 1984 on international reaction to moving the US Embassy to Jordan. The meeting concluded with a note of appreciation from acting Chairman Mica and our agreement to try to make arrangements to satisfy Mr. Gilman's request for the interagency memorandum. []

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Liaison Division
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